

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 5, line 2, merely to improve grammar. The following shows amended paragraph 5:

[0005] Generally, the methodology uses an initial or reference model for selected frames of an animation sequence, and based on the reference model, predicts [[the]] an offset model in each of a number of subsequent frames. The prediction for the offset model at a subsequent frame is based on the relative position of control vertices on the surface of the model of the reference frame, as those relative positions are mapped onto the surface of the offset model at the later, frame. The differences between the predicted vertices for the offset model and the actual vertices of the offset model are determined. These differences are preferably compressed for storage. The difference information takes a small number of bytes relative to the amount of data to store the actual control vertices information. This prediction process is repeated for each of the subsequent frames (e.g., 100 to 200 frames), using the initial reference frame as the prediction reference. Thus storage savings are achieved directly since the entire model data needs to be stored only for the reference pose, as the subsequent poses are stored in terms of the differences between the reference pose and the predictions for the poses of the offset models. The compression of the difference information yields additional storage savings.